

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-5, 9, 11-15 and 18 are rejected, and claims 6-8, 16, 17 and 19 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 8, 11 and 17, cancels claims 8 and 16, and adds new claims 20-22. In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the plurality of filter elements being enclosed within a reclosable package and being stored within the container as in original claim 7. Since claim 7 is indicated as being allowable, the amendment to claim 1 is submitted to obviate the rejections over the cited art. Independent claim 11 is also amended to recite the filter elements being contained within a reclosable package and being stored within the container as in claim 16. Claim 16 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form so that the amendment to claim 1 is submitted to overcome the rejections.

New claim 20 is added to recite a filter assembly in a manner similar to claim 1 and to recite the container having an open top end with an internal lip and the filter basket having a porous bottom wall, side wall, outwardly extending flange having a dimension to mate with the internal lip on the container for supporting the filter basket within the container, and a lid removably coupled to the container. Thus, claim 20 includes the subject matter of original claim 1 and allowable claim 10. Accordingly, claim 20 is submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 20 to recite the assembly having a plurality of filter elements enclosed within a reclosable package as in original claim 7, and claim 22 recites the assembly having a plurality of drinking vessels with color indicia as in original claim 6. These

features are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record so that these claims are submitted to be allowable.

The amendments to the claims are submitted to obviate the rejections over the cited art. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-22 are allowable over the art of record.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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